

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Farm Service Agency  
Washington, DC 20250

**Notice CRP-755**

**For:** State and County Offices

**Issuing 2014 and Future Years Emergency Forestry  
Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP) Payments**

**Approved by:** Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Contract Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, requires a reduction in payments, also known as sequester.

EFCRP payment processing was disabled on June 14, 2013, pending decisions related to sequestration and the applicability to EFCRP.

EFCRP payment processing resumed for payments earned in FY 2014 on November 25, 2013, with a sequestration factor applied.

**B Purpose**

This notice advises State and County Offices that:

- 2014 EFCRP payments:
  - began processing on November 25, 2013
  - will be available for certification and signature in NPS on or about November 25, 2013, for producers with a November 1 EFCRP contract anniversary date
  - will be sequestered
- EFCRP payment reports will now be accessible through the Common Payment Reports System according to 9-CM
- transaction statement wording for 2014 EFCRP payments has been changed.

**Disposal Date**

December 1, 2014

11-26-13

**Distribution**

State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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## 2 Sequestration

### A Introduction

EFCRP payment processing was disabled on June 14, 2013, pending decisions related to sequestration and the applicability to EFCRP.

Software for 2014 payment processing was projected to be released on November 22, 2013.

The following notices provided guidance for handling outstanding EFCRP payments through an authorized payment process:

- Notice CRP-750 for handling outstanding 2012 and prior year CRP and EFCRP payments
- Notice CRP-753 for handling outstanding 2013 EFCRP payments.

### B Sequestration

EFCRP contracts with an October 2013 contract anniversary date are payable on November 1, 2014, and are the first payments earned in FY 2014.

EFCRP payments earned in 2014 will have a sequestration percentage applied to the payment amount determined, after all other reductions have been applied. The sequestered:

- percentage is 5.1 percent
- amount is applied at the payment entity level
- amount is not attributed to members
- amount is reduced from the determined payment amount for the payment entity as the last step before sending the payment information to NPS.

Although paid in FY 2014, EFCRP payments were obligated in FY 2013, therefore, the 5.1 percent sequestration factor is applicable.

### C Transaction Statement

The wording for the transaction statement for 2014 EFCRP payments has been changed to include the following.

“The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, requires a reduction in most federal payments obligated in 2013, which is known as a sequester. Payments issued under the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP) have been reduced by 5.1 percent because of sequester-related reductions.”

### **3 Other Software Changes**

#### **A Introduction**

EFCRP payments are now being processed through the common payment system. Many of the options in the Conservation Payment System continue to be applicable, but new functionality is now available in the common payment system for payment reconciliation.

#### **B Changes to Conservation Payment System**

Because of the migration of EFCRP to the common payment system, certain options currently applicable in the Conservation Payment System are no longer available. However, State and County Offices will continue to use the Conservation Payment System for the following:

- retrigger payments using the “Make NPS Payment” option
- cancel payments using the “Cancel NPS Payment” option
- update AGI eligibility information
- record payment reductions.

The initial batch on November 25, 2013, and the first day of subsequent months thereafter, will be system initiated. However, if user selects the options “Make NPS Payment” or “Cancel NPS Payment”, these payment transactions will now process during the nightly batch, similar to programs like DCP, NAP, and SURE, and should be available or canceled in NPS the following workday.

### 3 Other Software Changes (Continued)

#### C Common Payment Reports

Because of the migration to common payment system, some information previously available in the Conservation Payment System will no longer be available. However, using the common payment system provides the capability to use the Common Payment Report System.

9-CM provides information about the common payment system and the Common Payment Report System. For EFCRP, the following report options will be available in the Common Payment Report System for 2014 and future years.

Report	Description
Submitted Payment	Includes all payments sent to NPS.
Pending Overpayment	Includes all pending overpayments that will be sent to NRRS. Users have the option to immediately transfer the overpayment to NRRS or take corrective action to remove the producer from the report. If corrective action is not taken within 20 workdays, the overpayment will automatically be transferred to NRRS.
Submitted Overpayment	Includes all overpayments sent to NRRS.
Nonpayment	Includes producers that cannot be paid in full with the reason the payment was reduced.

**Notes:** See 9-CM for additional information on reports available in the Common Payment Reports System.

A future amendment to 9-CM will be issued to include specific information related to EFCRP.

### 4 Action

#### A County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- begin certification and signature of 2014 EFCRP payments earned in October 2014 following the release of the EFCRP payment software on November 25, 2013

**Note:** An Information Bulletin will be issued when the payment software is released.

- be aware that the EFCRP batch process will run the first of each month for the payments earned during the previous month
- continue to use the options available in the Conservation Payment System according to subparagraph 3 B
- use the Common Payment Reports System to reconcile 2014 EFCRP payments.